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Frederick W. Cappelen

Died October 16, 1921

Frederick W. Cappelen, City Engineer of Minneapolis, died October 16, 1921, after an operation for appendicitis following an illness of about three weeks. Mr. Cappelen was born in Grammen, Norway, October 19, 1858. His technical education was gained at Orebro, Norway, and in 1876 he entered the Dresden Polytechnic Institute at Dresden, Germany. He graduated in 1880 with the highest honors ever won by a Norwegian student. He came to the United States in 1883.

In 1886, Mr. Cappelen entered the employ of the City of Minneapolis as bridge engineer. In 1893 he was made City Engineer of Minneapolis and served in that capacity up to 1898 and again from 1913 to 1921, or a total of fifteen years. From 1899 to 1913 he was engaged in private practice and in various private enterprises.

Both while in the public service of the City of Minneapolis and in private life Mr. Cappelen's name was linked with the important steps taken towards the securing of an adequate and suitable water supply for that city. The original reservoir system, together with the conversion of the distribution system to gravity service, was carried out under his direction. In 1904, he served on a commission with Andrew Rinker, City Engineer, and Allen Hazen for the investigation of a pure water supply. The filtration plant, as recommended by this commission, was first put in operation in 1913 under Mr. Cappelen's direction. Since that time numerous additions and improvements have been made to the system, including the development of a new site, and plans for a plant embracing both filtration and water softening.

Mr. Cappelen first became a member of the American Water Works Association in 1892, served as member of the Board of Trustees of that organization from 1916 to 1919 and was the first chairman of the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association after its organization in 1916.

Mr. Cappelen was not only a thorough student of the various phases of engineering practice but also gave freely of his time and of the benefits of his experience to the various technical and engineering organizations of which he was a member.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE MINNESOTA SECTION

At the annual meeting of the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association, held November 4, 1921, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, The late Frederick W. Cappelen was since 1892 an active member of this Association, was a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Water Works Association from 1916 to 1919, and was the first chairman of the Minnesota Section after its organization in 1916, and

WHEREAS, Frederick W. Cappelen had spent the greater portion of his life in public service, including fifteen years as City Engineer of the City of Minneapolis, and

WHEREAS, Frederick W. Cappelen did, through his personal efforts, much toward the advancement of the science of water works practice,

Be it resolved, That this Association and the Engineering Profession at large voice the sense of loss which comes to us and to the profession from the death of Frederick W. Cappelen, and

Be it further resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and that a copy of this resolution, together with a short biographical sketch, be forwarded to the National Association.